

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-16 are pending in the present application, Claims 1 and 5-13 having been amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 5-13 is found in the originally filed specification. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 13 were objected to; Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Tsunekawa (JP 10-330038); Claims 1, 3, 5, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tsunekawa in view of Nojiri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,487,512, hereinafter Nojiri); Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tsunekawa in view of Nojiri, and further in view of Barboza (U.S. Patent No. 4,600,161); Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tsunekawa in view of Nojiri and Barboza, and further in view of Helfand et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,997,122, hereinafter Helfand); Claims 9-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tsunekawa et al. in view of Nojiri et al. and Barboza, and further in view of Nakai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,989,799, hereinafter Nakai); and Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tsunekawa in view of Nojiri, and further in view of Applicants' admitted prior art.

Applicants thank the Examiners for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on November 28, 2006. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. The Examiner indicated that the claims appear to distinguish over the art of record. However, no agreement as to allowability was reached as the claims required

further searching and consideration. The claims are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. However, the present claims patentably distinguish over the art of record for the same reasons as discussed during the interview. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

With respect to the objection to Claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectfully submit that these grounds of objection are moot in view of the amendments to Claims 1 and 13.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the claims are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. The claims are amended to remove the phrase “tape-like,” and Claim 1 is amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded by Applicants as the invention. Applicants note that MPEP §2173.04 states that breadth of a claim is not to be equated with indefiniteness. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 16 as anticipated by Tsunekawa, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, “...on the parallel guide, the fiber bundle being twisted back to the same direction as the direction of the fiber bundle when it is being supplied, or being twisted further in the same direction thereby turning the fiber bundle upside down.” Tsunekawa does not disclose or suggest these elements of Claim 16.

The outstanding Office Action takes the position that guide 44 of Tsunekawa equates to the claimed “second guide.” As shown in Fig. 3 of Tsunekawa, the width of the fiber bundle initially starts out perpendicular to an axis of the bobbin 36. Guide 44 does not twist the fiber bundle back to a same direction as the direction of the fiber bundle when it is supplied (i.e., perpendicular to the bobbin axis). The width of the fiber bundle must be parallel to the bobbin axis at the time of winding. If Tsunekawa twisted the fiber bundle back

to the direction of the fiber bundle when it is supplied, the fiber bundle we be wound on the bobbin with its width perpendicular to the axis of the bobbin. Guide 44 of Tsunekawa twists the fiber bundle so that a width of the fiber bundle becomes about parallel to the axis of the bobbin, and does not twist the fiber bundle back to the same direction of the fiber bundle being supplied. Moreover, guide 44 of Tsunekawa does not twist the fiber bundle in the same direction to turn the fiber bundle upside down.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the other art of record does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Tsunekawa.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 patentably distinguishes over Tsunekawa and the other art of record, taken alone or in proper combination.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Tsunekawa in view of Nojiri, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the combination of Tsunekawa and Nojiri. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “on said parallel guide, the fiber bundle being twisted back to the same direction as the direction of the fiber bundle when being supplied from the first fixed guide roll, or being twisted further in the same direction to thereby turn the fiber bundle upside down.”

The outstanding Office Action relies on Nojiri to suggest replacing conical guide 43 of Tsunekawa with a flat guide. However, the flat guide would not change the direction of fiber bundle 30. The width of fiber bundle 30 is initially perpendicular to the bobbin axis. A flat guide would maintain this positioning. Guides 44, 47, and 48 of Tsunekawa would not twist back the fiber bundle to the same direction of the fiber bundle when being supplied (i.e., the width of the fiber bundle being perpendicular to the bobbin axis). The width of the fiber bundle must be parallel to the bobbin axis at the time of winding. If Tsunekawa twisted the fiber bundle back to the direction of the fiber bundle when it is supplied, the fiber bundle

would be wound on the bobbin with its width perpendicular to the axis of the bobbin. Guides 44, 47, and 48 of Tsunekawa twist the fiber bundle so that a width of the fiber bundle becomes about parallel to the axis of the bobbin and do not twist the fiber bundle back to a same direction of the fiber bundle when being supplied. Moreover, Guides 44, 47, and 48 of Tsunekawa do not twist the fiber bundle in the same direction to turn the fiber bundle upside down.

Furthermore, the other art of record does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Tsunekawa and Nojiri.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Tsunekawa and Nojiri, and any other reference of record, taken alone or in proper combination.

In addition, Claim 13 recites elements similar to those of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13 (and any claim dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Tsunekawa and Nojiri, and any other reference of record, taken alone or in proper combination, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

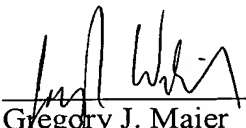
Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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